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THEODORE W. NOYES....Editor

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Catching Up on School Arrears.

Senator Curtis' amendment to the deficiency bill, introduced yesterday in the Senate, provided for an immediate appropriation of $1,549,000 for public school extensions and for "authorizations" for about $400,000 worth of school work for future construction. These amounts total the same as the estimates recently submitted by the Commissioners, after conferences with the school board. The only difference lies in the separation of certain of the projects from those to be immediately started.

The process of catching up with the school needs is likely to be extended over a number of years. If the additions to the plant are provided for regularly, each year lessening the degree of arrears, the congestion will be annually diminished until, in perhaps the course of a decade, the District will have been brought up to date in its public educational equipment.

Heretofore the annual additions to the school plant have been a little less than the needs, the arrears increasing annually. In other words, the school system has not grown as rapidly as the city. Despite repeated appeals for a larger annual allotment of funds for construction, Congress has failed to realize the necessity and the arrears have steadily grown. During the war period the conditions were incomparably bad. No new building could be undertaken then on account of the shortage of labor and the excessive cost of construction. The city, however, grew at a more rapid rate than ever before, and the school congestion became a scandal.

Now it is accepted at the Capitol that the District must be relieved. The schools must be multiplied, old buildings enlarged and new ones provided and sites obtained for still further additions. Thus there is great satisfaction in the evidence afforded by the pending amendment that the process of catching up with the arrears is at last to be begun and the school system given its needed equipment. The District will be patient if the process is continued, year by year, until the local school plant is brought up to the mark, which should be attained as quickly as the condition of the local and federal treasuries permits.

Justice Ashley M. Gould.

In his service on the District Supreme Court for nearly nineteen years Judge Ashley M. Gould demonstrated the possession of an exceptional judicial qualification. His decisions were sound, his knowledge of the law was broad, and he was courageous and fair in his interpretation of the statutes. He was in all essentials of long residence and familiarity with local conditions a Washingtonian, though officially a Marylander. Preceding his service on the bench with two years of duty as District attorney, he had qualified himself with intimate acquaintance with the procedure of the court upon which he was called to service. Many important cases came before him during his nearly two decades of judicial duty. He was required to render opinions affecting immense values, and he often presided at trials of cases celebrated throughout the country. Whether in matters great or small, he was painstaking in his attention to the issues involved, and his rulings, rarely reversed on appeal, were recognized as the expressions of conscientious judgment, impartial and carefully pronounced. The failure of his health had seriously handicapped him in his judicial work for some time, but there was no thought of the possibility of an early fatal termination. His death, therefore, greatly shocked the community, in which he was held in high esteem and which regarded him as a faithful and conspicuously able public servant.

Prices are reported to be declining rapidly. All that can reasonably be asked is for the gentlemen who write the price tags to keep in touch with the statistics.

Various members of Congress are in favor of imposing protective duties at once and allowing the customary tariff debate to follow at leisure.

Clean-Up Week.

The Commissioners have asked the people of the District to make a special effort during the week beginning May 30 to clean up the city. They plead for a thorough ridding of all the trash and for the sprucing of all premises. If their proclamation is generally observed Washington will be spick and span by the 6th of June.

It is not difficult to clean up Washington. There are ample facilities for good housekeeping. There are few very bad holes and corners for the accumulation of trash. All that is needed is a general disposition to rout out the refuse, to clean up the yards, to rake off the debris. This stuff can be burned in furnaces or will be carted off by the city's wagons. The Commissioners' injunction puts only a slight burden upon the householders.

The real problem in this matter is to keep the city clean after it has been once scoured and trimmed into good shape. If on the 6th of June Washington shines at 100 per cent cleanliness, how will it look on the 13th of June, one week later? An annual clean-up is most valuable if it is a stimulation of persistent good habit. The trouble is that folks slump rather badly in matters of civic cleanliness. They have grown somewhat accustomed to seeing trash on the streets, perhaps throwing it about themselves, and even the day after clean-up week ends they are not moved to pick up some disfiguring paper that another careless person has flung away.

Receptacles for waste are to be found throughout the city. They are placed in the parks. They are just the same relation to the people who move about town as waste baskets in the home or in an office. A good housekeeper does not permit trash to be thrown on the floor. Perhaps there are homes where it is the practice to fling discarded matter behind furniture and under chairs, but they are rare. There are undoubtedly many cellars where trash accumulates and consequently where vermin are likely to breed. These need especial attention during clean-up week.

Dirt has been defined as "matter out of place." The job for clean-up week is to put all matter in its place and thus rid the city of dirt. Every citizen must do his part, and then keep on doing it until clean-up week extends for all fifty-two weeks of the year.

Cuba.

Cuba is herself again. The clouds that lowered over the islands in the deep bosom of Havana harbor are buried. Dr. Zayas has been inaugurated president, and his defeated opponent, Gen. Gomez, now in New York, pledges by cable co-operation for good government. Let us all hope that good government results.

Our neighbor has been having her share of the war trouble. It reached her, as it did us, from a distance, and has been of a like nature—a dislocation of all business, and widespread unrest growing out of unemployment and high cost of everything.

She has been traveling as the great nations have, at a lively clip—too lively for her resources. Hence, there, as elsewhere, and conspicuously in this country, economy is now the cry. President Zayas promises the policy, and proposes a reduction of the budget from $136,000,000 to $60,000,000—more than half. Skill will be necessary to achieve such saving.

Since securing their independence with our aid, the Cubans have had difficulties in managing their own affairs. But maybe those difficulties have not been greater than those we encountered in the first score of years of our national existence. A young nation, large or small, cannot escape such an experience.

Upon the whole, however, the Cubans, with their independent venture, have done well; and we who started them on their course are entitled to the satisfaction we feel at the progress they have made. May it continue.

Disarmament by Example.

Speaking in Chicago before a congress discussing the limitation of armaments Mr. Bryan gave this sentiment: "Disarmament by agreement if possible; by example if necessary."

To the first part of the proposition all will say amen. America could not withstand a world policy in favor of disarmament. She is not in love with armament, but supports the policy as a matter of necessity. If other nations will disarm, she will.

Could she afford to go further? We are not the authors of the policy of heavy armaments. We have not used, and do not meditate using, the armament we possess for aggressive purposes. An adequate national defense is our object; and we have yet to provide even that.

Suppose that, under a millennial impulse, we should set what Mr. Bryan calls an "example"—should sell or sink our fighting ships, and disband our Army. Is it Mr. Bryan's opinion, or anybody's opinion, that our example would be copied? How fast would the other nations follow? and which would lead the procession? Instead of setting an example that would impress the world, would not such a step cost us some of the world's respect—cause the practical part of the world to suspect that we had become too sentimental for service in an everyday terrestrial arrangement?

Whatever betides, we shall not be the first to disarm, and leave it to the other nations to be "good" or not, as they may elect. America is not yet Altruria.

Sending a literary man to Italy as ambassador is in keeping with the regard in which poetry is held by a land that produced Virgil and Dante, not to mention D'Annunzio.

There have been grafters who attempted to carry on their line of activity after conviction despite the necessary interference of prison routine with convenient office hours.

Briand's reference to an argumentative episode as "a spell of bad humor that will pass" introduces a touch of hopeful human philosophy into diplomatic formalities.

Germany has accomplished a stroke of big finance in getting so deep in debt that the creditors feel solicitous about enabling her to attend to business and pay up.

A number of students of modern affairs are wondering when Lloyd George gets time to play golf.

Diplomatic Systems.

In a cable to The Star from Tokio, published Thursday, this appeared:

"Japan follows the British system and diplomats are trained in the severe school of minor posts with ambassadorships crowning their professional careers. For this reason the Japanese do not comprehend the American custom of changing diplomatic representatives after each election and giving diplomatic positions as rewards for political work or as reflecting the new administration's foreign policy."

The British system has its admirers in this country, and they have advocated its adoption in a way to command respectful attention. But it cannot be said that they have created any strong public sentiment. The popular opinion is that what has proved very successful in British affairs would not answer well in our affairs.

We attach our higher diplomatic servants to the President as we do the members of his cabinet. We make them his intimate advisers. We consider that they do their work better when in full agreement with him on matters they are called upon to deal with. They become associated thus with his administration.

And we may claim, as we do, a gratifying record under our system. We have had many men in diplomatic commission at very important posts in very trying times who gave an admirable account of themselves. They had had no experience in the management of diplomatic business, but relied upon the natural gifts that had served them to their distinction in other lines of endeavor. And their reliance proved well placed.

Our consular service, which differs, of course, from the diplomatic service, has improved under a system of promotions and continuity of personnel. But there appears no likelihood of a change in our way of filling the more important diplomatic billets.

Business and Congress.

There is high authority for the statement that business conditions in the country are improving. Testimony comes from all sections and all lines of trade.

This is not to say that all anxiety has ceased. It has not. Earnest and capable and far-seeing men, with years of experience and success to sponsor their views, still advise the utmost care on the part of both the industrial world and the political world in what they do at this grave time. A hasty or ill-advised step on the part of either might bring on widespread disaster.

In this connection the situation on Capitol Hill is assuring. Differences of opinion as to men and measures are showing, as, indeed, they should. Unanimity would be a bad sign. It is to the public advantage that "many men of many minds"—and some of them very able minds—should deal with the questions presented to them with courage and frankness.

But these men are meeting this obligation in a spirit devoid of the usual partisan warmth. All alike seem to realize that the country is face to face with an unprecedented situation, and one that calls for conferences, conciliations and compromises.

The way leading back to the middle of the road is not a smooth highway lined with primroses. It has yet to be traced; and there is every reason to believe that it will prove to be rough and bumpy. But, at whatever sacrifice or discomfort, we must make the trip; and it is the power of Congress to help out very considerably. Hence the value of the spirit now in exercise among the legislators.

Eitel Friederich is accused of evading taxes. Germany has had serious trouble and great expense, but riddance of the Hohenzollerns is in some degree a compensating benefit.

The ex-kaiser has apparently given up hope of a wood-chopping record that would enable him to re-enter politics as a friend of the people and a horny-handed son of toil.

An American dancer is said to be making a hit in Paris. France does not permit momentary disapprovals of our politics to interfere with appreciation of our art.

So many Russian leaders are suffering physical breakdown that sovietism cannot be commended as beneficial to health, however stimulating to the intellect.

European entanglements place before America the problem of rendering proper assistance without undertaking undue interference.

European statesmanship recognizes the fact that negotiations cannot be successfully concluded along lines of irreconcilability.

President Ebert has evidently decided to become the kind of statesman who relies for prestige on being known as a sphinx.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Machinery.

An engine has a bell to ring,
A whistle, too, to blow;
Their noises never do a thing
To make the engine go.

They're only useful now and then
To make some loiterer heed
A proper sense of danger when
The engine wants to speed.

And yet some people go so far
In liking boisterous fun,
They think the bell and whistle are
What make the engine run.

Disinterestedness.

"Are you sure that your career has been distinguished by unselfishness?"

"I am," replied Senator Sorghum; "I've worried myself into brain-fag over the people in Europe, not one of whom could come out and vote for me even if I offered to pay his expenses."

Home, Sweet Home.

"Does your wife let you carry a latchkey?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Meekton; "the only person who is now likely to keep me from going into my front door is the landlord."

Confusion of Clocks.

Since daylight-saving hit the earth
I've used my mind for all I'm worth,
Yet, strive and study as I may,
I cannot tell the time of day.

Jud Tunkins says motion pictures appeal to him because the audience is not expected to applaud and call the actors out to spoil the effect of a good scene.

Old Penalties Inadequate.

"Why don't you Crimson Gulch men hang an automobile thief the same as you used to do with a horse thief?"

"We've discussed it," said Cactus Joe; "but we came to the conclusion that hangin' is too good fo[r]

Editorial Digest

Germany's "Third Marne."

"The allies' first victory" since the armistice, as the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch (independent democratic) calls the acceptance of the reparations demands by Germany, is generally heralded in the American newspapers as an event rightly described by the Birmingham News (democratic) as "second only in importance" to the surrender of the central powers. Beside the general comment to the effect that the industrial world will now breathe with relief many different views of the cause, effect and method of bringing Germany to terms are reflected in the different papers.

That force was the deciding factor is the opinion of some who credit France with another victory, while others feel that time softened the demands and brought them nearer the realm of reason. A few, unprejudiced by the elements that confronted the men on the scene at the time, still feel that the allies should have carried the war to and through Berlin in the first place. The question of the new indemnity bonds and the effect of the settlement in America are also widely discussed.

The return of peace "and the opportunity to make it perpetual," as well as early resumption of commercial and industrial activity are part of the blessings to follow in the wake of the settlement. The New York Herald (independent) sees a "new prospect of peace" if the demands are executed, with which will come "a change in world temper" that can adjust later payments to new conditions that may arise. To the Chattanooga News (democratic) relief will be found for "overwrought nerves" and "opportunity for the inauguration of a program of reduced armaments." Now that "the greatest element of doubt is out of the way" new steps may be taken, for credits will be re-established, lack of which has been "holding back the recovery of all nations," declares the Springfield Union (republican).

Suggesting that France is disappointed in not being able to invade the Ruhr, the Baltimore American (republican) points out that it is "time to rest tentatively satisfied" to keep Germany to her promises, and "not harry her at every excuse," for "no country can do its best with sabers clanking all along its frontier." Quite a different spirit is reflected by the Janesville Gazette (republican), however, which chides the allied statesmen for their "grave error" in not occupying the "whole territory" until Germany paid her debts.

Likewise the Spokane Spokesman-Review (independent republican) thinks "the first sign of weakness" would be the sign "for a reversal of the reichstag's vote." for Germany is "sullen and bent on revenge." The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (independent), however, demands more than merely establishing the "proper spirit" on one side of the Rhine. "Germany must be sincere," it declares, but as "indispensable as Germany's good faith" is "reasonableness on the entente side." Obstacles in the way of the realization of such conditions are seen by the Rochester Times-Union (independent), which remarks that "even if Germany acts in good faith," since she must "come back rapidly to pay what she has agreed to pay," there are those who will "object." Realizing what "coming back" may mean in the way of competition, the Kansas City Journal (republican) states that "the real problem is protecting the world" from this competition and "at the same time enable Germany to remain sufficiently prosperous to carry out her financial obligations."

The Memphis News-Scimitar (independent) is also concerned over this point: "If Germany gets a fair shot at business we might as well make up our minds to disregard daylight-saving, short hours of work and many other pleasant but unprofitable phases that have been injected into our daily routine in order to remove the sting of drudgery from ordinary labor. The German is noted for his persistence and determination. If the workmen of America do not manifest some of the distinguishing characteristics of the German workman the inevitable result will be that he will have to seek a non-competitive occupation."

On the whole, however, the settlement as it affects America is looked upon with satisfaction by most of the newspapers which are disposed to agree with the Atlanta Journal (democratic) when it says "the longer and harder the road which Germany needs must travel in atonement, the slower the recovery of all nations concerned." But with the first step taken "a clearing of the skies for better world relations" is seen.

Our record throughout the entire negotiations calls forth the praise of the Roanoke World-News (democratic), which remarks that "the wisdom of the Harding-Hughes policy has been proved beyond question," and the Chicago Post (independent) comes to a similar conclusion.

Discussing the "fruits" of the reparations settlement, the New York Herald (independent) expresses the belief that sale of the indemnity bonds in America will be of benefit to the United States as well as France and Germany, since they mean "enhanced financial interest by American banks and their clients in the restoration of German industry and commerce."

The Philadelphia Record (independent democratic) states that while the volume of these bonds "is enormous," since they would be "practically guaranteed by the allies," authorities believe that "the huge loan can be absorbed." The New York Globe (independent) takes comfort in the fact that "once the reparations commission has put its first allotment on the market there will be less talk of renewed invasion," which might depress their value.

The Literary Diplomats.

President Harding, who is the first newspaper man to occupy the White House, gives his first three appointments of diplomatists to literary men. George Harvey, who made his living with pen and blue pencil, is ambassador to the court of St. James, a post filled by Whitelaw Reid, newspaper editor, and by Walter H. Page, magazine editor, both of whom were signally successful.

The new ambassador to Italy is Richard Washburn Child, editor and writer of fiction, who succeeds Robert Underwood Johnson, magazine editor and poet. The new minister to China is Jacob Gould Schurman, who, although not an editor in the usual service, has contributed much to current literature and has done much editorial work.

It happens that Messrs. Harvey, Child and Schurman were all intimately connected with Mr. Harding's campaign, and so it cannot be inferred from their appointments that President Harding will make his future diplomatic selections along literary or journalistic lines. But it is a sign of the times, especially in America and France, showing how closely the interests of government and trained publicity are working.

To the extent that the public service profits by the work of efficient men this tendency is good, but it does not help either journalism or literature, for when an editor takes office he loses his value as an editor. Usually he recognizes this fact by giving up his editorial connections, which is a public loss, for it is easier to pick a diplomatist than it is to find a good editor.—Baltimore American (republican).

At that, it is more profitable to argue with a fool than a cop.—Rochester Times-Union.

Europe may have fewer mosquitoes, but the plebiscite is just as bothersome.—Janesville Gazette.

"Citizen Shot by Double Mistake," avers a headline. He must have got both barrels.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

No, dearie, Edison didn't discover the talking machine. A man named Adam beat him to it.—Warrensburg (Mo.) Star-Journal.

Many a man has been more depressed by being rejected by a girl than by a life insurance company.—Petersburg Index-Appeal.

No one dances the toddle now, says a letter from New York. No one ever danced it.—Arkansas Gazette.